What is claimed is:

- 1. A method of assaying a sample of blood or blood components for the presence of 25-hydroxy-vitamin D comprising:
- (a) lowering the pH of the sample to 5.5 or less to dissociate the 25-hydroxy-vitamin D from vitamin D binding proteins; and
- (b) determining the concentration of 25-hydroxy-vitamin D in the sample,

wherein the vitamin D binding proteins are not removed from the sample.

- 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the pH of the sample is lowered to 5 or less.
- The method of claim 1, wherein the pH of the sample is lowered to 4.5 or less.
 - 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the pH of the sample is lowered to 4 or less.

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- 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the pH of the sample is lowered to 3 or less.
- 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the pH of the sample is lowered to be in the range of from 2 to 5.5.
 - 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the pH of the sample is lowered to be in the range of from 4.0 to 4.5.
- 30 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the pH of the sample is lowered to 5.5 or less by adding a buffer having a pH of less than 5.5.

- 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the buffer is a citrate, citrate phosphate, or acetate buffer.
- The method of claim 1, wherein the concentration of 25-hydroxy-vitamin D is determined by immunoassay.
 - 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the sample of blood or blood components is serum or plasma.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein no precipitate is formed.

- 13. A method of claim 10, wherein a vitamin D tracer is used in the immunoassay.
- 14. A method of claim 13, wherein the vitamin D tracer is ABEI conjugated to 25-hydroxy-vitamin D.
- 15. A method of claim 13, wherein the vitamin D tracer is ABEI conjugated to a 22-carboxylic acid derivative of 25-hydroxy-vitamin D by a 2,2'-(Ethylenedioxy)diethylamine linker.
 - 16. A method of claim 13, wherein the vitamin D tracer is ABEI conjugated to a 22-carboxylic acid derivative of 25-hydroxy-vitamin D by a polyethylene glycol linker.
 - 17. A method of claim 13, wherein the vitamin D tracer is ABEI conjugated to a 22-carboxylic acid derivative of 25-hydroxy-vitamin D by a dimethyl adipimidate linker.

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- 18. A method of claim 13, wherein the vitamin D tracer is ABEI conjugated to a 22-carboxylic acid derivative of 25-hydroxy-vitamin D by a diamino cyclohexane linker.
- 19. A method of claim 13, wherein the vitamin D tracer is ABEI conjugated to a 22-carboxylic acid derivative of 25-hydroxy-vitamin D by a diamino C_{3} to C_{12} chain linker.